16. Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.

M|s. Paramount engineering works Lucknow

1549. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have inquired into the working of M|s. Paramount Engineering Works, Lucknow during the last five Years;

(b) whether it is a fact that this company cornered crores of rupees by selling the costly imported material in the black market and then evaded the actual verification with the connivance of Estate Industries Department and the Chief Controller Imports & Exports on the plea that the records have been destroyed or lost;

(c) what is the value of licences that were issued to this firm during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) on what basis these licences were issued; and

(e) whether the above firm also evaded Sales tax and Income tax amounting to crores of rupees and if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) The unit had obtained import licences and release orders during the period AM-65-66 to AM-71-72 amounting to Rs. 83.28, 040|-.

On the allegation that they were non-existent and bogus unit and had obtained the licences and release orders of values Higher their entitlements and had misutilised the imported materials, investigations were carried out and action was taken under Clause 8 of the Imports (Control) Order, 1955. The firm were debarred from receiving import licences and allotment of goods through canalising agencies for 10 licensing periods from AM 74 to AM-83.

The case was also handed over to CBI for investigations. On the basis of CBI's findings that the firm and their partners had entered into criminal conspiracy in obtaining the licences and delivery of materials from MMTC. A criminal complaint was filed in the Court of Additional Chief Judicial Megistrate| Special Magistrate (SPE cases) Lucknow. The final outcome of the case is not known.

(e) Information about the evasion of sales tax and income tax is not available with this ministry.

Benami Accounts in Banks

1550. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of persons opened their accounts in banks ni Benami and wrong addresses in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) wheher it is also a fact that most of the accounts were opened with black money;

(c) whether any letter has been received by the Finance Minister in this regard in August, 1985;

(d) whether Government propse to take any steps to ensure that as soon as the account with more than Rs. 50,000 is opened. Income Tax authorities are informed by the concerned banks which will help the authorities to curb black money; and

(e) if not, what alternative action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) As per information readily available, 20 bank accounts opened in Hyderabad in the names of the persons who appear to be fictitious have come to the notice of the Income Tax Department. Appropriate action under Direct Taxes Acts is underway. It would not be feasible at this stage to say whether the source of these deposits was legal or not.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Government and the Reserve Bank of India have taken several steps to ensure that bank contituents open accounts in their own names, Banks have been asked to satisfy themselves about the genuineness of the account holders. Banks' inspecting officers are also required to report to higher authorities any cases of suspected incometax evasion that they may come across during their inspection of branches. Banks are required to repay deposits of Rs. 10,000- or more only through 'account payee' cheques. Besides, banks are statutorily required to furnish to Income Tax authorities every year the names and addresses of all persons who, during the previous year had been paid aggregate interest of Rs. 1000-or more.

Promotions to SC Employees in PF office, Delhi

1551. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime in the last week of December, 1985 a memorandum was submitted to Government by the All India Employees' provident Fund Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribe Staff Federation regarding denial of promotions to the Scheduled Caste employees in the regional Provident Fund Office in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the grievances of the Scheduled Caste employees and what steps have been taken by Government to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheduled Caste employees in the office of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Delhi have alleged denial of promotions to them as Upper Division Clerks|Head Clearks as per the roster of promotion prescribed by the Government of India. According to the report furnished by the Employees' Provident Fund authorities, all the eligible Scheduled Caste employees have been promoted strictly according to the reservation orders issued by the Government of India.

Demand for castor oil in World Market

1552. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for castor oil is likely to shoot up in the world market in the coming years;

(b) whether the demand requires monitoring; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to derive maximum benefits out of it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The world demand of caster oil bas remained static, with the world trade varying between 1.5 to 1.8 lakh tonnes. The castor oil and castor oil based products can be substituted by alternative materials of equal technical performance and as such the consumption of castor oil is dependant upon the availability and prices of alternative materials. The international price of castor oil has also shown wide fluctuations due to erratic supply and production position of this commodity. The world demand in coming years would depend upon price of castor oil and its substitutes.

(b) The potential for export of castor oil from India, aggressive competition by our competitors and the resultant fluctuations in international price in recent years had necessitated closer monitoring of our exports and the international market for this commodity.

(c) A Working Group on Castor Oil had been set up in this Ministry to formulate a long term strategy for export of castor oil from India. The Working